

Jacob was an exceptional young man who possessed a kind heart, an inquisitive mind, and a dedication to family and friends that was as uncommon as it was devout. After completing his general education studies, Jacob entered the United States Army to build a new life for himself. Sergeant Simpson was a proud, dedicated soldier; he was a team player, always willing to volunteer for an extra job, a hard assignment—but he was so much more.

He was a patriot—an earnest young man who believed citizenship meant responsibility. Jacob Simpson accepted the duty of being an American as freely as he did its freedoms. True to his nature, Sergeant Simpson used his time in uniform to adjust his focus, investigate his academic interests—to develop a plan for rest of his life. Jacob planned on attending college after his discharge.

But Jacob will never again enjoy the winds of the Columbia Gorge, the view of Mount Ashland, or the sounds of his guitar. He returned to Iraq for a second tour of duty well aware of the challenges, the risks, and dangers. He gave his last full measure of devotion keeping faith with his charge.

Jacob Simpson never faltered, never wavered, and never failed—he understood his duties and sacrificed everything he had, and everything he never would have, for the ideals of liberty. His courage is a lesson for us all.

In his brief twenty-four years, Jacob Simpson made a difference in the lives of thousands. With hope, determination, and uncommon valor—Jacob helped blaze the trail for a new generation of Iraqis to have the right to choose a new destiny.

It is now up to us left behind, here—to ensure the life and death of Jacob Simpson is remembered—to keep its promise. Let us recommit ourselves to the tasks at hand. We must never forget.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD “DONNIE” YOUNG

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Donald “Donnie” Young, a Denver policeman who tragically lost his life in a senseless act of violence earlier this month.

Detective Young was 43 years old, a devoted husband and a father. He was a 12-year veteran of the Denver Police Department and a recipient of the police Medal of Honor. Fellow officers remembered Donnie as a well-liked, friendly man with a care-free attitude who adore his family. He was a running back on the police football team and an avid Harley motorcycle rider.

His tragic death has saddened and will continue to be felt by the entire Denver community. He will no doubt be sorely missed by all, and most of all those who knew and loved him.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to take this time to express my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Mr. Young's family and friends.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING THE COAST GUARD, THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, AND THE NATIONAL SAFE BOAT- ING COUNCIL

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support of H.R. 243, and to recognize the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week.

I represent Florida's 18th District, and a large portion of my Congressional district is surrounded by water. To many of my constituents, and to many Floridians, boating is a way of life. National Safe Boating Week reminds us that even the most experienced boater must always be attentive and vigilant to prevent accidents that hurt or kill thousands of Americans each year. The National Safe Boating Council deserves our thanks for its public education efforts.

The Coast Guard's mission is not limited to our home waters. Numerous Coast Guard vessels are deployed to U.S. Central Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including two 110-foot patrol boats from South Florida—the USCGC *Baranof* and the USCGC *Maui*, each with 22 personnel aboard—are currently deployed in Bahrain and patrol in the North Arabian Gulf.

I join the citizens of South Florida in saluting the bravery and dedication of the men and women serving in the United States Coast Guard who are keeping the American people safe and who are defending our freedom both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, 2005, during consideration of H.R. 2361 the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I inadvertently recorded my vote as “No” on the amendment offered by Mr. BEAUPREZ to increase funding for Wildland Management (Rollcall Vote No. 195). It was my intent to record my vote as “Aye” on this amendment.

IGNORING INTERNATIONAL LAW: NIGERIA'S CONTINUING PRE- SENCE ON CAMEROON'S BAKASSI PENINSULA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the continued failure of the Nigerian Government to respect international law regarding Cameroon's Bakassi Peninsula.

In October 2002, the International Court of Justice overwhelmingly held that the Peninsula rightfully belongs to Cameroon. As a result, the ICJ demanded that Nigeria rapidly and unconditionally remove its military, police, and civilian officials from Cameroonian territory. Almost three years later, Mr. Speaker, Nigerian military forces are still on the Bakassi Peninsula.

Nigerian President Obasanjo recently has taken some admirable steps to combat corruption and advance democracy in his country. On this key issue, however, Nigeria has been less than forthcoming. At the outset of the Bakassi dispute, President Obasanjo promised that Nigeria would abide by whatever decision the ICJ reached. It has not. After the ICJ decision, Nigeria promised that it would withdraw all of its troops by September 2004. It has not.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush recently declared that the United States recognizes and respects its obligations to the International Court of Justice. We must ask for nothing less from Nigeria and our other friends in Africa and around the world.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA- TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, under the current Administration, waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracts have proliferated. No-bid contracts have soared. Oversight of federal contracts has often been turned over to private companies with blatant conflicts of interest. Billions of dollars have been squandered on contracts that enrich private companies but provide little or no benefit to the taxpayer.

Yesterday, at the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill to help restore integrity to the federal contracting process. The amendment would have prohibited contractor conflicts of interest and stop the use of abusive “monopoly contracts.” It would have also ensured greater transparency and accountability. I am deeply disappointed that the Rules Committee refused to make the amendment in order and allow an open debate on this important issue on the House floor.

This Administration now relies on oversight contractors with conflicts of interest. In March 2004, the Defense Department awarded seven contracts to help oversee the implementation of a larger number of Iraqi reconstruction contracts. One of the oversight contractors, CH2M Hill, has ongoing domestic contractual relationships with three of the four firms it oversees: Washington Group International, Fluor, and AMEC.

My amendment would have ensured that oversight contractors are truly independent, without any business or contractual relationships with the companies whose contracts they are helping to assess.

My amendment would have prohibited the abusive practice of monopoly contracts, requiring the Administration to use contract vehicles that allow multiple contractors to compete for individual projects. That way we could have some competition between the companies at the project level—and competition is the best way to control costs.

Finally Mr. Chairman, my amendment would have required the Department to submit to appropriate congressional committees a list of all audits that find more than \$1 million in contractor overcharges, and to provide full copies of specific audits requested by the chairmen and ranking members of those committees. In this way, the amendment would have enhanced the ability of Congress to discover contractor abuses and promoting greater transparency.

Unfortunately, the current Administration has tried to hide contractor overcharges from Congress, international auditors, and the public, impeding oversight and diminishing accountability.

For example, for months the Defense Department refused to provide copies of audits completed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency relating to Halliburton's oilfield reconstruction work in Iraq. Slowly, we gained access to these reports through unofficial channels. The first report showed overcharges of more than \$100 million. We now have six of these audits, and the overcharges exceed \$212 million. To this day, we have still not received the remaining audits under this contract.

By refusing to allow a debate on the common sense changes proposed by my amendment, the Republican leadership in Congress is trying to bury these serious problems as well.

I will vote for this bill. I support our troops and this bill will enhance the safety of our men and women in uniform and improve their quality of life. But I am deeply concerned that Congress is not doing nearly enough to stop wasteful and unethical contracting practices.

INTRODUCING THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK MEDICARE EQUITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague Rep. JIM LEACH (R-IA) to introduce the Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2005. Sen. MIKULSKI is introducing the companion bill in the Senate. This simple, bipartisan bill would greatly improve access to mental health services for Medicare beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) by allowing clinical social workers to direct bill for their services.

This legislation seeks to correct a flaw in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with respect to Medicare coverage of clinical social work services to nursing home residents. The law omits Certified Social Workers (CSWs) from a list of clinical professionals allowed to directly bill Medicare Part B for mental health services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs. As a result of this omission, Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes often go without necessary mental health services.

Numerous reports suggest that mental illness is highly prevalent in nursing homes, with mental health problems affecting more than 80 percent of the residents. These mental disorders—including major depression, anxiety, and severe cognitive impairment of Alzheimer's disease—interfere with a person's ability to carry out activities of daily living. Furthermore, older people have the highest rate of suicide of any age group, accounting for 20 percent of all suicide deaths. Thus, access to mental health services for seniors in nursing homes is critically important.

Clinical social workers are highly trained mental health professionals and have been approved providers in the Medicare program since 1987. They provide 61 percent of mental health treatment in our country, and constitute the single largest group of mental health providers in the United States. Clinical social workers are also cost effective because they are paid less than Medicare's other mental health providers. They are reimbursed at 75 percent of the rate paid to psychologists.

Sadly, in many cases vulnerable nursing home residents have no access to mental health services when highly skilled CSWs are unable to bill Medicare Part B for services in SNFs. Rural and other medically underserved areas are particularly disadvantaged because psychiatrists and psychologists are often unavailable.

Before the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, clinical social workers were able to bill Medicare directly for providing mental health services to SNF residents, just like clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. Their current exclusion from this provider list is indefensible.

The ultimate victims of the current regulations are the vulnerable seniors who need mental health care. Mental health treatment works. Alzheimer's patients and their families can benefit enormously from psycho-education and counseling around how to cope and manage behavior problems. Research trials have repeatedly demonstrated that psychotherapy, either alone, or in combination with medication, can be effective in treating depression and debilitating anxiety.

The Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2005 again makes it possible for CSWs to provide mental health services in skilled nursing facilities. This legislation helps to ensure access to needed mental health services for the many Medicare beneficiaries who reside in skilled nursing facilities. This bill is a small technical change to existing law, but would have the enormous effect of improving the lives of Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes who are suffering from mental illness. We urge our colleagues to work with us to enact this important legislation this year.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO BRONX WAR HEROES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a constant reminder of the high cost of war. As they have done throughout America's history, selfless men and women continue to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We as Ameri-

cans may disagree on when, where, or if the country should go to war but we must all agree that the men and women who stand ready to sacrifice their lives for their Nation deserve nothing less than the respect and admiration of us all. As we commemorate the contributions of our fallen soldiers on this Memorial Day, I want to pay special tribute to Sergeant Cornelius Charlton and Private First Class William Thompson, two brave African American soldiers from the South Bronx who were posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their outstanding service in the Korean War. The stories of these two soldiers are dramatic but largely unknown.

Sergeant Charlton was living in the Bronx, New York when he enlisted. Originally assigned to a desk job, Charlton volunteered for combat duty with Company C of the 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division. On June 2, 1951, Charlton's platoon commander was wounded and evacuated from the field. Charlton took command of the unit's assault against Hill 543 and knocked out two enemy positions. Even though he had suffered a serious wound, Charlton led a third charge to capture the hill. Without regard for his own safety, he personally attacked the last enemy position on the other side of the hill. Fatally wounded by a grenade, Charlton struggled onward and single handedly took out the enemy. As a result of his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and gallant self sacrifice, Sergeant Charlton was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Private First Class Thompson enlisted in the army in 1945 at the young age of 18. His address at time of enlistment was the Home for Homeless Boys in the Bronx. Thompson was described by his friends as being helpful and cheerful but few if any of his friends believed he could succeed as a soldier. However, he proved them all wrong. On August 2, 1951 near Haman, Korea, enemy forces mounted a surprise attack on Pfc. Thompson's unit. Acting quickly and decisively, Thompson set up his machine gun in the path of the onslaught and pinned down the enemy, giving his unit time to withdraw to a more tenable position. Although hit repeatedly by enemy fire, he continued to return fire until he was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Thompson's dauntless courage and gallant self sacrifice saved the lives of many in his unit and earned him a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor.

What makes the stories of these two men so outstanding is the fact they were African Americans fighting for a country that refused to fight for them. These two men epitomized every characteristic we expect our soldiers to possess: selflessness, dignity, courage and honor.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, there is a group of dedicated veterans, the Friends of Charlton Garden, who are working tirelessly to preserve the memory of these fallen heroes in the Bronx by establishing a memorial park aptly named the Charlton-Thompson Korean War Veterans Memorial. I am proud of the work that the Friends of Charlton Garden are doing to ensure this monument stands as a symbol of gratitude to the selfless acts of heroism displayed by all of our fallen soldiers, and I know in my heart that we as a legislative body must do more to supplement their good works. I'm